

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00748 140635Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 ORM-02
AID-05 ACDA-07 /099 W
-----141609Z 127549 /42

R 100303Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3233
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0748

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MU YS SA
SUBJECT: OMAN-PDRY RELATIONS

1. ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTER ZAWAWI MAY 7, SAUDIS ARE INTENSIFYING THEIR FOCUS ON OMAN-PDRY RECONCILIATION AS PART OF THEIR OVERALL EFFORT TO END SOUTH YEMEN'S ISOLATION FROM ARAB MAINSTREAM. TTUAWYAUHSUD#HAD REPORTED ON THIS TO SULTAN QABOOS DURING APRIL 12 MEETING IN SALALAH.
2. SAUD SAID SALIM RUBAY'I ALI AND HIS SUPPORTERS WERE MEETING MUCH RESISTANCE FROM ABDUL FATTAH ISMAIL AND COMPANY IN THEIR EFFORT TO MODERATE PDRY POLICY. RUBAY'I ALI'S LATEST "MESSAGE" VIA SAUD SAID HIS TASK WOULD BE EASED IF OMANGOV ASKED THE REMAINING IRANIAN TROOPS TO GO HOME, AND STOPPED ALLOWING FOREIGN "BASES" ON MASIRAH. ALSO, IT WOULD HELP IF SULTANATE PERMITTED REPATRIATION OF UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF FORMER PFLO ADHERENTS NOW LIVING AS REFUGEES IN PDRY.

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3. SULTAN, SAID ZAWAWI, HAD RESPONDED THAT THE REMAINING IRANIAN FORCES WERE CONDUCTING NO ACTIONS HARMFUL TO PDRY AND WOULD STAY IN PLACE UNTIL OMAN'S NEW AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM IS OPERATIVE. ALSO, AS HE HAD REPEATEDLY STATED PUBLICLY, SULTAN SAID THERE ARE NO FOREIGN BASES ON MASIRAH NOR WILL ANY BE PERMITTED.

4. SAUD HAD MENTIONED THAT PRESSURE ON PDRY TO RELAX ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD QABOOS AND THE SULTANATE WAS INCREASED BY FACT THAT EVEN SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE HAD URGED ADEN LEADERSHIP TO TAKE A MORE SENSIBLE LINE VIS-A-VIS RELATIONS WITH OMAN.

5. COMMENT: NONE OF THIS SOUNDS LIKE A BREAKTHROUGH BRINGING ADEN AND MUSCAT TOGETHER, BUT THE GOOD SAUDI TRY DOUBTLESS WILL CONTINUE WHEN QABOOS VISITS RIYADH NEXT WEEKEND. END COMMENT.
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